

# STAFF PICK

## NODAME CANTABILE

### MANGA BY TOMOKO NINOMIYA

As a Japanese language learner, one of the most useful part in the JFT Library, I find, is its bilingual manga collection. Bilingual manga are a fun way to improve vocabulary and a great source for learning “natural” conversational Japanese (as compared to “textbook” phrases). Moreover, for those interested in translation, bilingual manga where you can compare the translation to the original side-by-side give excellent examples of how certain words, phrases, and idioms are treated in translation.

One of my favourite bilingual manga is *Nodame Cantabile* by Tomoko Ninomiya. The story follows two students as they push each other towards

achieving their musical ambitions. The JFT Library has all three editions of this title (original Japanese, English translation, and bilingual edition), which means I can pick and choose depending on what I want to do. The story is centered around university students so it’s also a great way to learn informal conversational Japanese that you would use with friends. Even if I put aside studying Japanese, the manga itself is really fun to read with over-the-top comedy and quirky characters. I would recommend this title to any classical music lovers or those looking for an uplifting romantic comedy.

— Haram, Library Assistant  
March, 2021

### ABOUT AUTHOR

**Tomoko Ninomiya** (二ノ宮 知子) is a manga artist from Saitama. Since her debut in 1989, her works include *Torendo no Joou Miho*, *Tensai Family Company* and *Green*. She won the 28th Kodansha Manga Award for *Nodame Cantabile*, which has been adapted into TV-drama, anime and movie.

— translated from town.minano.saitama.jp



Title: *Nodame Cantabile*  
Author: Tomoko Ninomiya

Publisher: Kodansha  
Year: 2007

Pages: 268

Call no. MANGA\_B NIN NOD 2007  
Item no. 00025769

Original Japanese:  
*Nodame Kantabire*  
のだめカンタービレ  
Kodansha, 2002

English Translation:  
*Nodame Cantabile*  
Ballantine Books, 2005

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